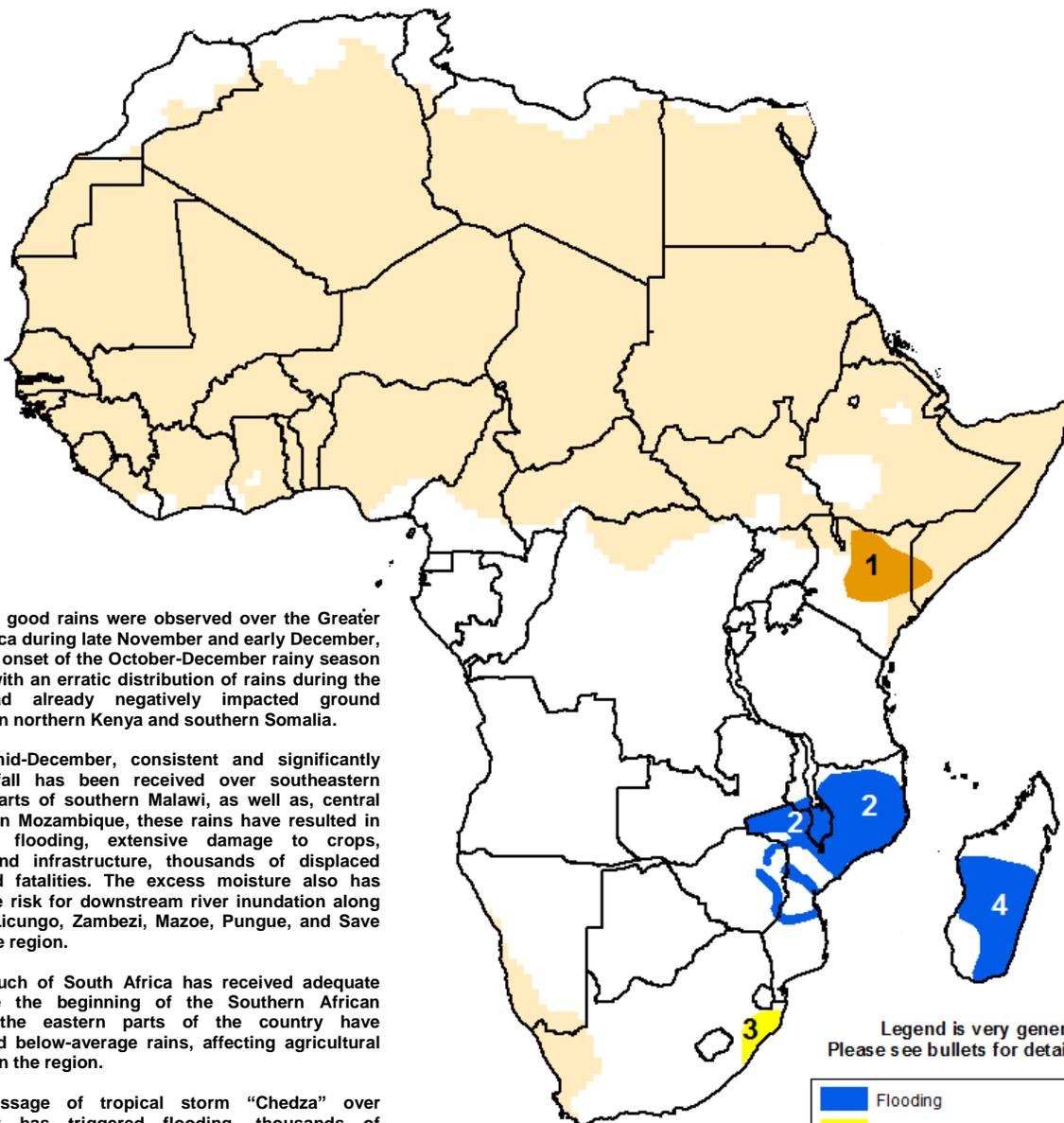




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 22 – January 28, 2015

- Heavy, flood inducing rainfall continued over southeastern Africa during the last week.
- Suppressed rains across southern Angola and northern Namibia strengthen mid seasonal moisture deficits.



1) Although good rains were observed over the Greater Horn of Africa during late November and early December, the delayed onset of the October-December rainy season combined with an erratic distribution of rains during the season had already negatively impacted ground conditions in northern Kenya and southern Somalia.

2) Since mid-December, consistent and significantly heavy rainfall has been received over southeastern Africa. In parts of southern Malawi, as well as, central and northern Mozambique, these rains have resulted in widespread flooding, extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities. The excess moisture also has elevated the risk for downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region.

3) While much of South Africa has received adequate rains since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, the eastern parts of the country have accumulated below-average rains, affecting agricultural conditions in the region.

4) The passage of tropical storm "Chedza" over Madagascar has triggered flooding, thousands of displaced people and fatalities during the last week. Average to above average rainfall forecast during late January is expected to worsen saturated ground conditions.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Heavy rains continue to negatively impact southeastern Africa.

In the second dekad of January, significantly heavy precipitation continued over many regions of southeastern Africa. According to the satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were received across southern Malawi, as well as, western, central, and northern Mozambique (**Figure 1**). Several provinces in Madagascar also received widespread and heavy precipitation amounts following the passage of tropical storm during the last week. In southwestern Africa, a slight increase in seasonal precipitation was also observed in southeastern Angola. However, lower amounts received for another week just to the south in northern Namibia and the Caprivi Strip region.

Since mid-December, the evolution of the southern Africa monsoon has experienced a significant reversal of anomalous moisture conditions. Several areas in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar which had been dominated with early season dryness are now experiencing persistent and flood inducing rainfall. Frequency analysis of satellite estimated rainfall currently depicts the highest persistence of the enhanced mid-seasonal precipitation across Mozambique, Malawi and Madagascar, where over six consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall have been recorded over western Mozambique (**Figure 2**).

Combined with mid-seasonal moisture surpluses well exceeding over 200mm in the region since the beginning of December, this has led to numerous reports of flooding, thousands of displaced populations, damages to crops, livestock, infrastructure, and fatalities in recent weeks. Both the countries of Malawi and Mozambique have declared states of emergencies/red alerts due to the heavy rains and adverse ground impacts, as there also remains an increased risk for downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region. The Zambezi and Licungo river basins are reportedly the most critical as exceptionally high river levels have been recorded.

In contrast to the anomalously wet conditions across southeastern Africa, mid-seasonal dryness continues to develop across many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, and the Caprivi Strip region. The continuation of suppressed rainfall throughout January is expected to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions. Elsewhere, little to locally moderate rains have sustained anomalously dry conditions throughout parts of the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa.

For the upcoming outlook period, the placement of enhanced monsoonal rainfall is expected to shift northward, providing some relief over portions of southeastern Africa. Precipitation models show a belt of heavy, widespread rainfall extending from southern Angola northeastward into Zambia and western Tanzania, with lesser amounts expected over Mozambique and Malawi (**Figure 3**). Even with more seasonable rains forecast, saturated ground conditions, however, may still lead to additional flooding in Malawi and Mozambique during the next week.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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